

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Douglas Tomb State Memorial

AND/OR COMMON

Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

636 East ^{35th} State Street

CITY, TOWN

Chicago

VICINITY OF
CODE

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Illinois

COUNTY
Cook

CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☐ BUILDING(S)
☒ STRUCTURE
☒ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC
☐ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH
☐ PUBLIC ACQUISITION
☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
☐ ACCESSIBLE
☐ YES: RESTRICTED
☒ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE
☐ COMMERICAL
☐ EDUCATIONAL
☐ ENTERTAINMENT
☐ GOVERNMENT
☐ INDUSTRIAL
☐ MILITARY
☐ MUSEUM
☒ PARK
☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ TRANSPORTATION
☒ OTHER: Memorial

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Division of ^{LAND Historic Sites} ~~Parks and Memorials~~, Department of Conservation, State of Ill.

STREET & NUMBER

901 South Spring Street

CITY, TOWN

Springfield

VICINITY OF

STATE

Illinois

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Cook County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Dearborn and Randolph Streets

CITY, TOWN

Chicago

STATE

Illinois

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Illinois Historic Landmarks Survey

DATE

June, 1975

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Div. of Parks and Memorials, Dept. of Conservation, State of Ill.

CITY, TOWN

901 South Spring Street, Springfield, Illinois 62706

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Historic Site

The tomb and monument are designed in a type common to the period. The Grant Monument in Lincoln Park in Chicago is quite similar in structure. The 96-foot Douglas Tomb State Memorial consists of a granite base surmounted by a 46-foot column supporting a bronze figure of Douglas nine feet nine inches high, standing in repose with scroll in his left hand and placed against his hip, his right hand thrust under the lapel of his tightly buttoned coat as he looks eastward over Lake Michigan.

The four pedestals of the base (which contain the tomb) are occupied by Illinois, History, Justice, and Eloquence, in sitting attitude. Then Fortune has her hand placed on the State Coat of Arms with ears of corn in the left hand and crowned with a chaplet of wheat, supposedly in the act of relating the story of the State to History on the opposite corner, who with a stylus in hand is about to record it upon the scroll lying across her lap. Her left foot rests upon a pile of tablets. Justice rests her right hand upon a sheathed sword and holds plans in her left hand. Eloquence points with her right hand toward the statue of Douglas, while the left hand rests upon a lyre instrument.

There are four bas-reliefs in the panels of the main base representing the advance of American civilization.

Douglas' body is in a sarcophagus of Vermont Marble from his home county. It supports a bust of him by Leonard Volk. Originally the base and sepulchre were made of Joliet "Athens Marble" (a local, high-quality limestone). Now only the door sill is of that material. All of the exposed material was changed to granite in 1877.

The marble sarcophagus containing the remains of one of Illinois' most gifted son, bear the following inscription: "Stephen A. Douglas / Born / April 23, 1813 / Died / June 3, 1861 / 'Tell my children to obey the laws and uphold the Constitution.'"

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☐ RELIGION
1400-1499	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE
1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE
1600-1699	☐ ARCHITECTURE	☒ EDUCATION	☒ MILITARY	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER
☒ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☒ TRANSPORTATION
1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☒ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)
		☐ INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1849;1868;1881

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Leonard W. Volk(&J. M. Van Osdel?)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Stephen Arnold Douglas came to Illinois at the age of twenty in 1833. While teaching school he passed his bar exam, entered politics, and rose to be the national leader of his party. He held various State offices until his election to the United States Senate in 1847, where he served until his death in June, 1861.

Douglas was the first statesman from Illinois to gain national prominence. In this role he is chiefly noted for his leadership in the issue over the Kansas-Nebraska Act (which he drafted), the promotion of the Illinois Central Railroad, and the famous Lincoln-Douglas debates of 1858 which played a large part in Lincoln's electoral victory over Douglas for the Presidency in 1860 and a milestone on the road to the Civil War.

Douglas' fame as a national figure is well-established, but he was also important to Illinois and Chicago. In 1849 he purchased 53 acres on what was then the southern boundary of the city. This was to be his estate. He named it "Oakenwald". He is buried in the southeast portion of that estate.

The whole area surrounding the Douglas Tomb is touched with the lasting influence of Douglas. In 1856 the first University of Chicago opened on ten acres of land given by Douglas from the western portion of his property. On an adjoining piece of land the government built Camp Douglas, the second largest training base and prison camp in the Civil War. The eastern edge of the Douglas Tomb State Memorial is the Illinois Central right-of-way which exists because of Douglas' efforts. The Tomb itself is built on the spot Douglas intended for his home. Even today, parks and streets in the area named for him and a neighborhood school called Oakenwald are reminders of Douglas' presence. The tomb is the keystone in the arch between Douglas' national life and his place in Chicago history. There is no other monument for Douglas.

Immediately after his death an association of notable Chicagoans was formed to undertake the construction of a suitable tomb and monument. Fund-raising by private subscription and sales of momentos were a failure so in 1865 the State purchased the tomb-site from Douglas' widow for \$25,000. It has been owned by the state ever since. On June 3, 1868, Douglas' body was placed in the completed portion of the tomb. Leonard Volk, an established sculptor and relative of Douglas, designed the tomb and monument. In 1871 the Chicago Fire destroyed Volk's plans for the uncompleted structure. New appropriations totaling \$59,000 were made by 1879. Records show that \$300 of this went to John M. Van Osdel for "professional services". The tomb was completed in May 1881, after an expense of \$90,000. *Historic Site*

Today the Douglas Tomb State Memorial with its gardens are operated by the Division of ~~Parks and Memorials~~ of the Illinois Department of Conservation. It is open free to the public everyday except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years.

Land & Historic Sites

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Andreas, A.T. History of Chicago. Chicago: A.T. Andreas Co., 1885. V.II, pp.303-306
Douglas Monument Association. Organization, Constitution, and By-Laws. Chicago:
Chicago Times Job Printing Establishment, 1962. (In Ill. State Hist. Library).
Illinois. General Assembly. Reports to the General Assembly.... 1881, v. 3. I
(Final Report of the Douglas Monument Commissioners. May 28, 1881).
Johannsen, Robert W. Steven A. Douglas. Oxford University Press, 1973.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2.2

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 449030 461311050
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

From the Illinois Central right-of-way west along Thirty-fifth Street 400 feet, then 266 feet north, then 260 feet east, then angling southeast back to the beginning.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Theodore Hild, National Register Assistant

DATE 12 December, 1975

ORGANIZATION

Office of Preservation Services, Ill. Dept of Conservation

STREET & NUMBER

901 South Spring Street

TELEPHONE

(217) 782-6752

CITY OR TOWN

Springfield

STATE

Illinois

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ☒

STATE ☒

LOCAL ☒

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER